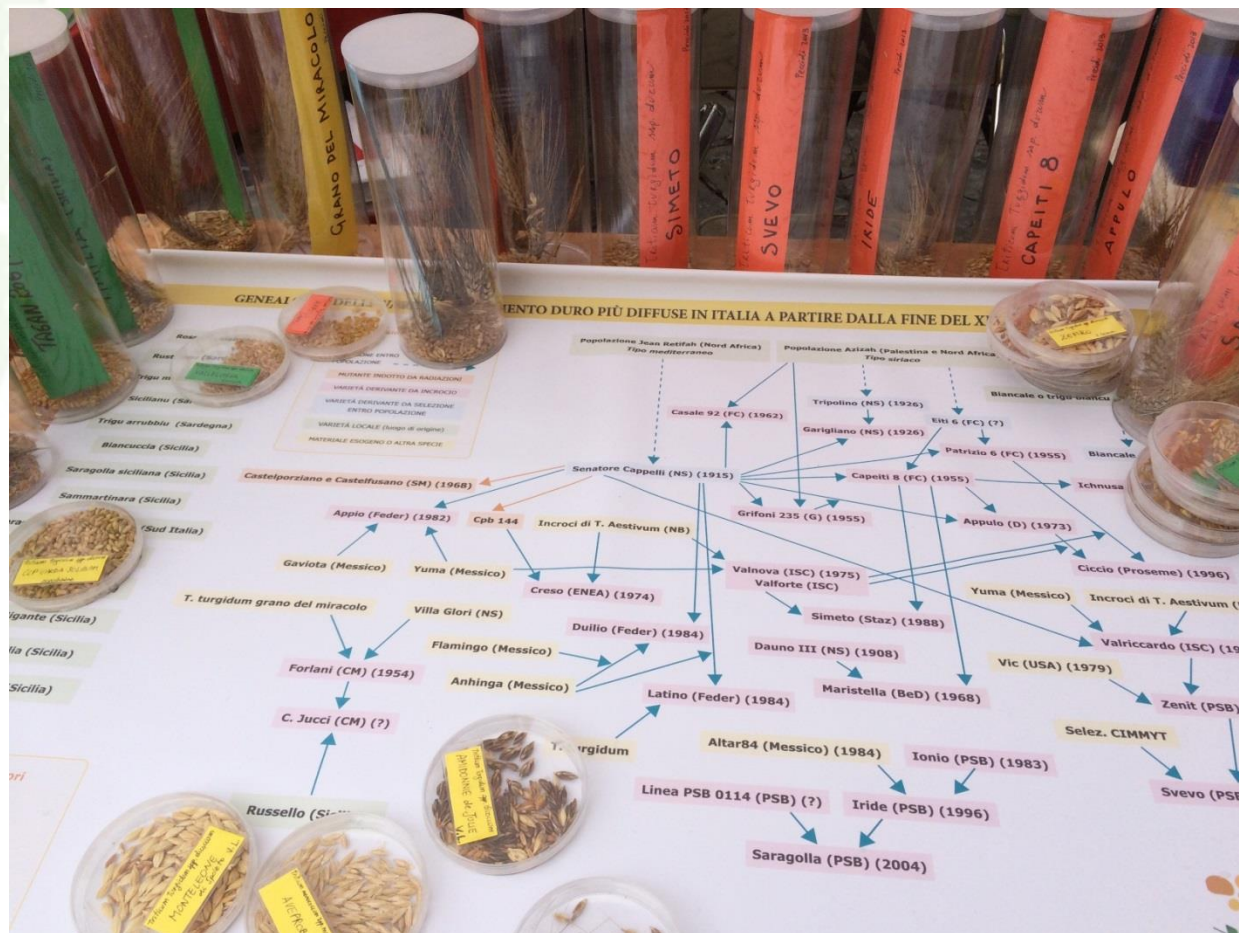


rete  
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# The Italian seed network

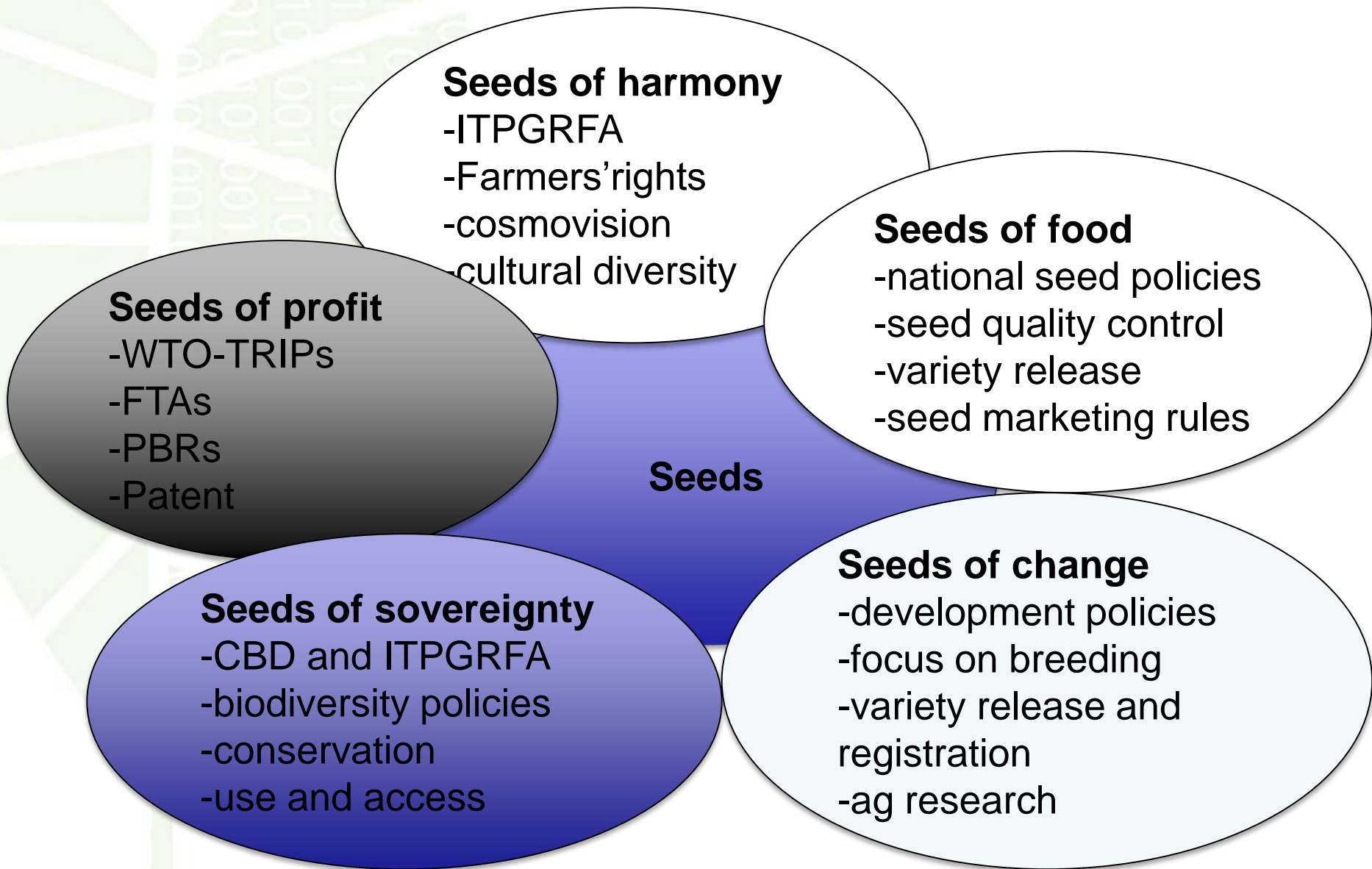
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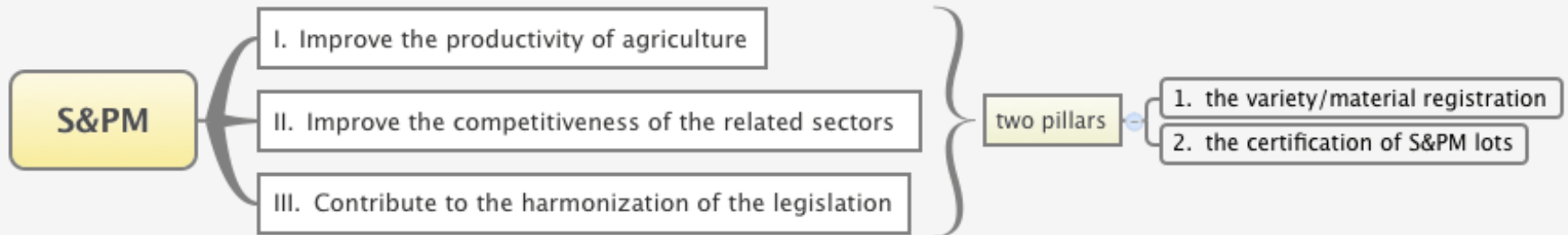


## Starting point

Conserving, restoring and managing *agrobiodiversity* means *giving back to farmers the centrality of the decisions that affect them*, starting from the future of their seeds



## Seed legislation...



### How to assess the value of a variety

- Level 1 → breeder carry out breeding trials
- Level 2 → VCU regulated trials by examination offices
- Level 3 → Post-registration trials done by public, semi-public and private bodies

R&D — Variety release — Seed multiplication

Commercialization

IPRs (UPOV or Patent)

distinctness

uniformity

stability



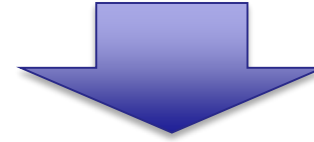
Formal seed systems



Uniform varieties



Informal seed systems



Landraces/populations



Seed laws, IPRs policies

uniformity

diversity

seed quality

seed laws

market

seed

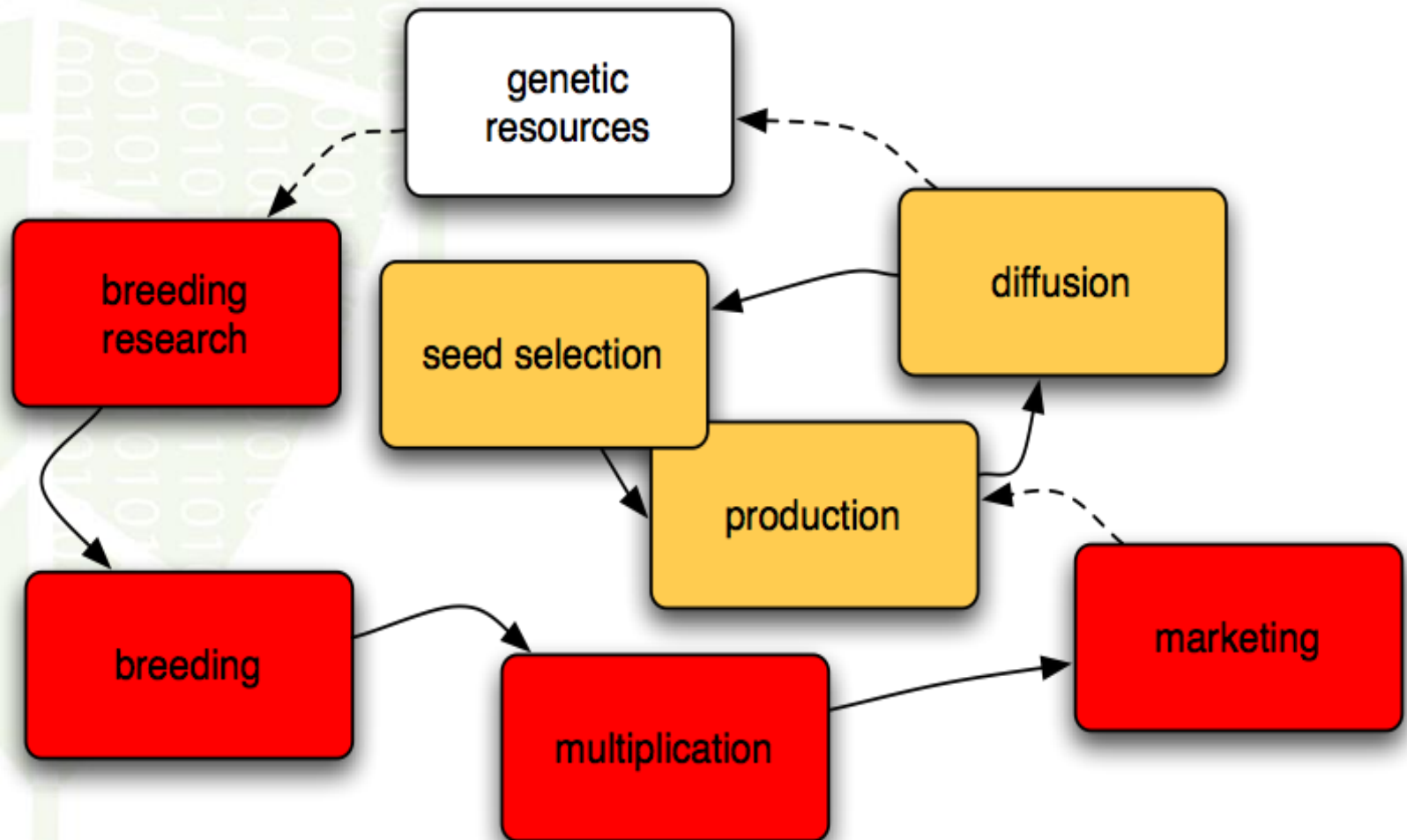
access to seed for breeding

IPRs rules

innovation

agriculture modernization

# A new approach to the seed issue: Seed Systems...



Diversity



sustainability

Coping climate change

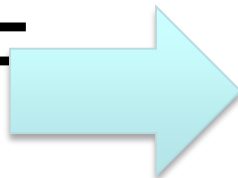
Innovation



Participatory

Decentralised

LOCALITY/TE  
RROIR



Embedded in places

# A new approach is needed

market

exchange

cultivation

on-farm research

sustainable use of PGRFA

seed  
systems





# What is the Spanish Seed Network?

Decentralized organization of a technical, social and political nature that has been active for the last 17 years.

Federation that brings together more than 26 local seed networks.



# What is the Spanish Seed Network?

## Members:

- Farmers and farmer organisations
- Technicians and agricultural experts
- Supporters of responsible consumption
- Local action groups
- University staff and students
- Ecologist movements
- Researchers
- All kinds of different collectives



# What is the Spanish Seed Network?

## Main objectives

- **Reintroduction of local, traditional and farmers' varieties** in the agri-food system, in the framework of the agroecology, food autonomy and family farming system.
- **Helping to coordinate activities** amongst the different members and promoting their participation in the national and international level.

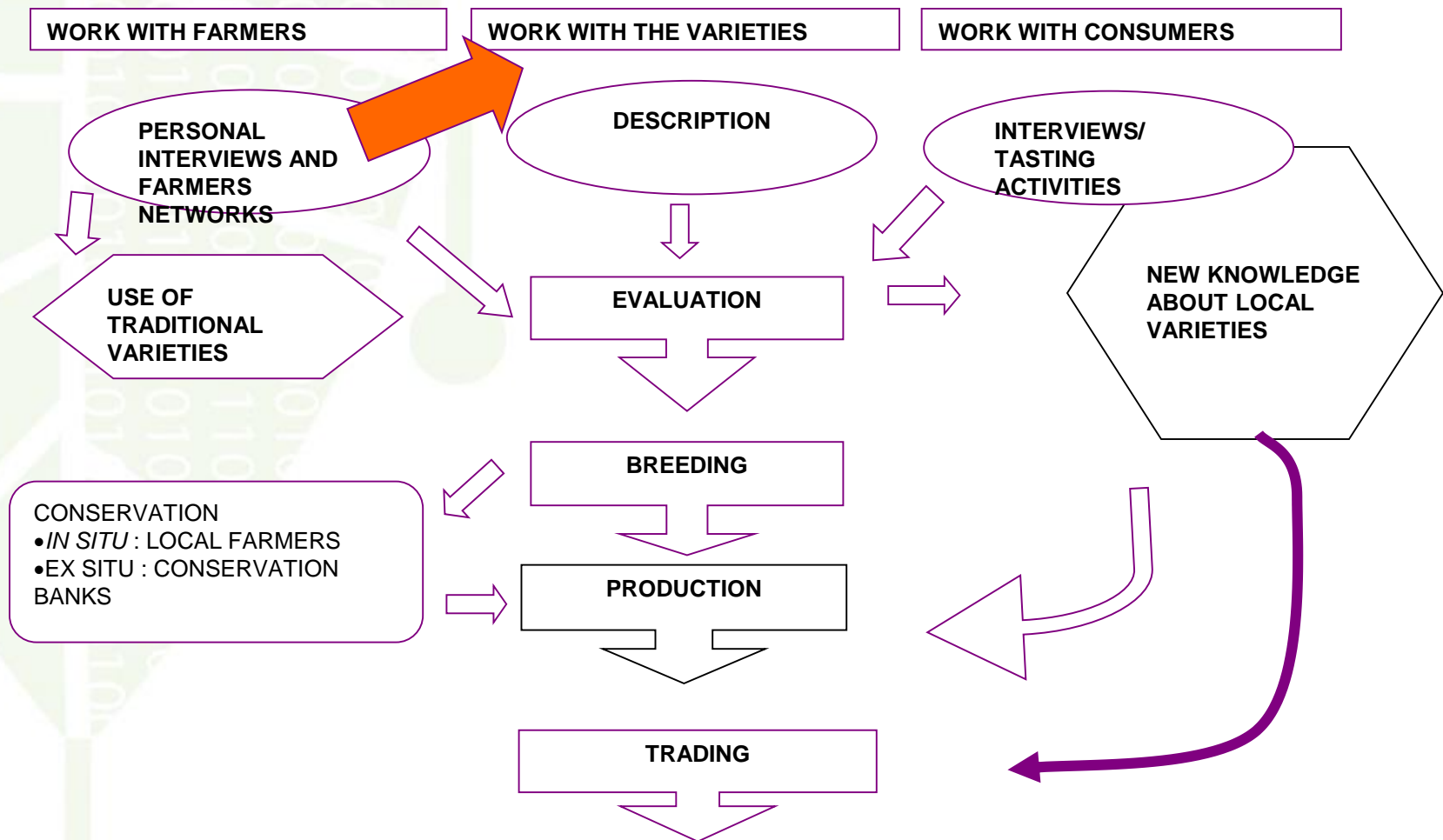




# Our specific objectives

- To **support and facilitate use activities** carried out by farmers.
- To **facilitate and support the access**, production and exchange of seeds among farmers.
- To **raise public awareness** about the importance of agricultural biodiversity in the agri-food system.
- To **promote local and traditional varieties** among **consumers**.
- To **create employment in rural areas** through seed production and trading on a local level.
- To **reclaim the development of public policies** intended to facilitate the farmers' rights to conserve, use, exchange and sell their own seeds.
- To **ban the GMO crops** from the Spanish agri-food system.

# Local Seed Networks: working from a local level





# Research: Recovery of traditional knowledge





# Research: Participative work in local varieties description, testing and evaluation





# Research: Participative work in local varieties description, testing and evaluation





# Training and counselling





# Seed Exchange Networks



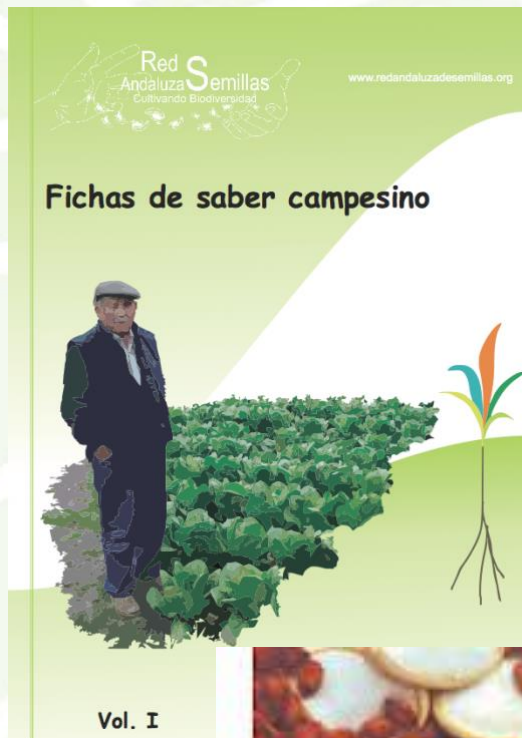


# Consumption





# Publications



# Agricultural Biodiversity Fair





# Building alliances



# Internal Workshops for Reflection





# Political lobbying

## ***Campaign: "Cultivate diversity. Sow your rights"***

- To demand a legal framework that allows farmers to produce and sell their own seeds (Farmers' Right to save, use, exchange and sell farm-saved seed/propagating material)





**100%**  
**VARIEDAD LOCAL**

**Thank you very much!**





**SCUOLA  
 ESPERIENZIALE  
 ITINERANTE  
 DI  
 AGRICOLTURA  
 BIOLOGICA**

Esàpoda is a non profit organisation that has founded and runs the  
**Experimental Itinerant School of Organic farming.**  
 The school teaches how to grow crops and raise  
 cattle and aims to those people who want to  
 become professional organic farmers.





The **teachers** are the farmers, the **classrooms** are their own farms, the **lessons** are held in the field. The **learning** is achieved by working and studying in the field, among the crops and the cattle.





The lessons are held one weekend per month per one year.  
At the end of the school **the farmers-teachers become tutors** and follow the students in the beginning of their professional project.





The school has started in 2006 and until now has had almost **100 students**. Among them, the **50% are now professional organic farmers**, the 25% are preparing themselves to start farming and the remaining 25% has given up.





Conceptualizing & realizing  
Agricultural & Environmental Applications,  
through innovative ICT solutions

# What is ARS **NATURA**?

It's a cluster of experts in

**environment, agriculture & informatics,**

empowered by the

**HELLENIC FORESTS LTD** company





# our fields of **expertise**

environment, agriculture & informatics,

## **Environmental**

Environmental impact assessment of agricultural & forest systems

## **Agriculture**

Organic agriculture research & development

## **Food production**

Assessment & design of sustainable food production systems

## **ICT**

ICT applications for agricultural sustainability assessment

## **Forest management**

Forest & natural resources protection and management

## **GIS**

Remote sensing applications (GIS)

## **Educational Training**

Agricultural & environmental Vocational Educational Training (VET)

## **Policy-making**

Environmental Policy-making consultation

# Who we are

# human resources

people are our most valuable asset



**Thomas G. Lagkas**  
(BSc, MSc)

Thomas Lagkas is a professional with expertise in managing forest ecosystems and natural environment in general in addition to GIS applications



**Vasilis Gkisakis**  
(BSc, MSc, PhD)

Vassilis Gkisakis specializes as agronomist in sustainable agriculture and agrobiodiversity, with extended background in food science and technology.



**Thomas D. Lagkas**  
(BSc, MBA, PhD)

Thomas D. Lagkas is a Lecturer in Computer Networks. His research interests are in the areas of wireless communication networks, mobile multimedia communications, wireless sensor networks, energy conservation, localization techniques, robotics, and educational technologies. He has



**Dimitrios I. Raptis**

Dimitrios I. Raptis. Forester, educated to PhD level, with strong background in Silviculture and Forest Fire Management Science. Advanced knowledge of spatial analysis technology (ArcGIS 10.1, QGIS), statistical modelling (SPSS, OriginPro) and fire behavior simulation (NEXUS, FARSITE, Flammap). Participation in many national and international projects (Fire Paradox, Life+). Post-doctoral forest research (issues related to silviculture, wildfires, forest biometrics, spatial analysis).

(BSc, MSc, PhD)



**Katerina Valta**

Katerina Valta received her bachelor degree (BSc) in Chemical Engineering from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece in 2004. She also holds an MSc in Environmental & Health Engineering from the Technical University of Crete, Greece (2008). Her work experience is focused on solid waste and wastewater management with an emphasis on biological treatment technologies of municipal and industrial solid waste. She has participated in more than 10 national and EU LIFE funded projects. She has published 6 papers in peer reviewed journals and counts more than 20 participations in international conferences. She specialises in organising, drafting and submitting project funding applications and proposals while she has also been involved in numerous workshops and training events aiming to strengthen capacity building of various stakeholders. She is also an external expert at European Commission to support Cohesion Policy, regional and urban development.

(BSc, MSc)